fulfilled. I would like to know whether in 1983 the UGC had agreed not only to the merit promotion scheme and improvement of housing facilities but also to selection grades. You have not said about selection grades. I would like to know whether in 1983....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have put the question. You are going on talking. You must allow the Minister to reply.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: All right.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI: Sir, first and foremost, I do not agree with the contention of the hon. Member that the Government and the UGC had forced the DUTA to go on strike. Secondly, it has been a matter of pity that for 75 days, the strike had to go on. At the beginning I would like to say that the Government and the UGC had done everything possible to see that the strike did not take place at all. As a matter of fact, I met the representatives of DUTA days before the strike was called, and we sat for three hours and they went back very happy. We were in a mood to think that probably the strike itself would not be called at all. After that also, in spite of a number of discussions by our officials with the DUTA people — it was a continuous process going on—the strike was called. The UGC Chairman also met them and a stage had come when one of the things for which no commitment had been made in 1983, that is regarding selection grade teachers, she was prepared to consider; the modalities were to be studied. I would like to say that in 1983 there was no commitment made either by the Government or by the UGC regarding the professor's grade or the stagnation of teachers. As a matter of fact, it had been referred to the Mehrotra Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think I will go to the next question.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: I have a supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you have discussed it fully the other day on Calling Attention. Next question.

*44. [*The questioners (Shri Suraj Prasad and Shri Chaturanan Mishra) were absent. For answer vide Col. 30—36 infra*].

Off-loading of fertiliser wagons by a fictitious firm

*45. SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:†
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 27 wagons of fertilisers valued at Rupees 17 lakhs were recently off-loaded by a fictitious firm stated to be based at Tenali in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the result of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the matter and the measures taken by Government to plug the loopholes in existing procedure to avoid such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVARAO SCINDIA): (a) 27 wagens of fertilizers valued at Rs. 17.80 lakhs were delivered to a party at Tenali on Indemnity Notes which were later found to be forged.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Tweny seven wagons of fertilisers were booked under twenty seven invoices on 28-9-1984 from Nangal Dam to Tenali in Andhra Pradesh by Messers. National Fertilisers Limited. The Chief Goods Supervisor, Tenali, delivered these goods to

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sushil Chand Mohunta. ....

Messrs. Murthy Fertiliser Traders Tenali, on the strength of stamped indemnity notes in the absence of railway receipts. On receipt of a communication from Messrs. NFL, sent by them on 9-11-1984, that the consignments had been fraudulently delivered, enquiries were made by the South Central Railway, which revealed that the signatures on the indemnity notes were forged. The matter was then immediately reported to the local police and subsequently to the C.B.I. The case is still under investigation of C.B.I.

2. In this case, the Chief Goods Supervisor, Tenali, did not take adequate precautions while granting delivery of consignments in the absence of railway receipts. The existing rules which prescribe adequate safeguards for preventing fraudulent deliveries have been reiterated.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: Sir, the question which arises is that in the case of 27 wagons of fertilisers, the department was cheated or the company was cheated because of forged documents. But I personally know that whenever any document is released, then payment has to be made to the bank, before which the RRs cannot be released. In case the RRs are not available or are not released, indemnity Bonds are to be given, but the indemnity bonds by themselves are not sufficient. There has to be a surety also for it. In this case, if there was a surety, that surety could not have been a person in the air. The surety must be a person who must be a good surety to the satisfaction of the authorities releasing the goods to a particular person. I can understand that the goods may have been given to some agency or some persons who are probably not the rightful persons, but cerrtainly the money must have been paid on proper semurity for those goods. Till today the mony has not been paid to NFL. Neither the Railways have paid nor has it been raised from anybody, and the reply is that investigation is still going on. I do not think it is such a big case where even after 14 months you should still say that the investigation is still going on. How long will it go on? What is the time-limit for it? What is the number of persons who are involved? How many statements are to be recorded? And who are the person? These things must be known. Then number two.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may put it as a second supplementary. Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI MADHAVARAO SCINDIA: Sir, certain lapses were committed by the Chief Goods Supervisor in Tenali, and on a preliminary enquiry which indicated that certain lapses had been committed and because outsiders were involved, we decided that it should be given over to the CBI. And the final report of the CBI is still awaited in this matter. I do admit that certain lapses were committed on the part of the Chief Goods Superviser. But on receiving the final report of the CBI he will certainly not be allowed to go unpunished. As far the question of indemnity is concerned there was a document. According to rule 149 of Goods Tariff when the railway receipt is lost or is not forthcoming, the railway can grant delivery on the basis of a stamped indemnity note and according to the rules and regulations in such matters and the practice, in the case of goods consigned by the consignor to self, it is, however, necessary that the person claiming the consignment produce a stamped indemnity note signed by the consignor. He did produce it. But later on, on further inquiry it turned out to be a forged one. He did produce such a document at that particular moment, countersigned by the concerned officer of the forwarding station. This was also done very cleverly. Such notes should be endorsed by the consignor in favour of the person claiming delivery. So the entire matter seems to be fraudulent and it was done in a very clever manner. Fortunately this lapse came to our notice. By and large, the system does work, and such cases are very rare.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: My point is this. The indemnity bond is there. In this case a surety was taken. This surety bond was there. The question is a person may have submitted wrong and forged documents. But what about the security money? What about that particular security or surety? The surety person could not have been evading in the air. Then, my second point is you have not said what action has so far been taken

against the defaulting officer, whether he has been suspended. The final report of the CBI may come. One thing is these documents were forged and certain lapses were committed by a particular officer. So some inital action should have been taken against him. What action has been taken and what guidelines have been issued after this has come to your notice so that such incidents do not occur in future?

SHRI MADHAVARAO SCINDIA: As far as the surety is concerned, this rather ingenious gentleman had also produced surety which is also supposed to be doubtful. As I said, the whole thing is a comprehensive lapse. We are certainly tightening the system. As I said by and large, the system does work well and such cases are not very common.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you taken any action?

SHRI MADHAVARAO SCINDIA: As far as the Chief Goods Superviser who was the railway man involved in this incident is concerned, he has been dismissed from service on 20th March, 1985 and action further can also possibly be taken once the final report of the CBI is received by us. In the meanwhile has has also taken anticipatory bail.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जिस आदमी ने फ्राड्लेंटली और फोर्जरी से 27 वैगन छुड़ा लिये हैं उसके खिलाफ क्या एक्शन लिया है ? पुलिस ने क्या उसको पकड़ा है, जेल भेजा है या क्या किया है ? इस मामले को जो सी० बी० आई० को सुपुर्द किया है अभी तक 14 महीने में उसमें क्या प्रोग्रेस हुई है ?

श्री माधव राव सिंधिया : सर, जैसे मैंने पहले कहा कि चीफ गुड्स सुपरवाइजर

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : माननीय सभापति जी, मैंने यह पूछा है कि जिसने फ्राड्लेंटली ये 27 वैगन छुड़ाये हैं उसके खिलाफ प्रारंभिक क्या एक्शन लिया है ?

श्री माधव राव सिंधिया : सर, उसके खिलाफ रेलवे एक्शन नहीं ले सकता, एक्शन सी०बी० आई० लेगी । हम सी०बी०आई० की रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं और प्रिलिमिनरी रिपोर्ट आ चुकी है । फाइनल रिपोर्ट अपेक्षित है जो कि मार्च-अप्रैल में आ जायेगी ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : सभापति जी, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से इस प्रश्न के दो आस्पेक्ट्स पर जानकारी चाहता हूं । एक तो जिस सिस्टम के अधीन, या जिस नियम और रेगुलेशन के तहत माल को छुड़ाया जाता है, इस छुड़ाने वाली पद्धति ने यह साबित कर दिया है कि यह सिस्टम वैल-प्रूव्ड नहीं है, ठीक नहीं है बल्कि यहीं नहीं और भी जगह ऐसा काण्ड हुआ होगा, हो सकता है । तो मैं एक तो यह जानना चाहता हूं कि मंत्री जी, इस सिस्टम को री-एग्जामिन करेंगे, जिससे इस प्रकार का कांड न हो । दूसरी बात, जैसा मंत्री जी ने कहा सी. बी. आई. एक्शन लेगा । आपने भी एफ. आई. आर लौज किया होगा और इस एफ० आई० आर० के लौज होने के बाद जिसने यह बेईमानी की है, उसके खिलाफ कुछ कार्यवाही चल रही होगी । आप अपने कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ तो कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं, करना भी आपके हाथ में है । लेकिन जिसने यह कांड किया है, क्या आपके कर्मचारी उससे मिलकर काम करने से फंसे हैं या आपकी कार्यवाही के दौरान हीं फंसे हैं ? अगर आपकी कार्यवाई में ही फंसे हैं तो उनकी रक्षा के लिये भी कुछ है और जिनको सजा देने के लिये आपने एफ. आई. आर. करके छोड़ दिया है, उसकी तस्दीक भी हो रही है ?

श्री माधव राव सिंधिया : सर, जब हमको यह संदेश मिला एन० एफ० एल० से 9 नवम्बर, 1984 को कि ऐसी फ्राड्लेंड डिलीवरी की संभावना है, तो साऊथ-सेंट्रल रेलवे ने तत्काल वहां इन्क्वारीज की और जानकारी प्राप्त करने का प्रयास किया । उस प्रयास के फलस्वरूप यह विदित हुआ है कि इनमें फ्राड्लेंड एक्शन होने की संभावना है तो तत्काल यह मैटर सुप्रिंटेंडेंट आफ

पुलिस, जी. आर. पी. को रिपोर्ट किया गया 20 नवम्बर को । उसके बाद सी. बी. आई. को एण्ट्रस्ट कर दिया गया। हम लोग अपने जो रेलवे आफिसर है या रेलवे स्टाफ है, उनके विरुद्ध कार्यवाही कर सकते हैं। जैसे मैंने कहा, हमने एक्शन लिया है क्योंकि इस व्यक्ति के रिकार्ड से, इसके कुछ महीने पूर्व भी कुछ कमियां ऐसी आई हैं अपनी जानकारी में और उसके कारण हमने उसको सर्विस से डिसमिस कर दिया है। जहां तक दूसरों के अगेन्सट कार्यवाही का सवाल है, उसके लिये हम सी० बी० आई० की रिपोर्ट की अभी भी प्रतीक्षा कर रहे हैं और रिपोर्ट मिलने पर ही संभव हो सकेगी... (व्यवधान)

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : सर, मेरे दोनों प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं है...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, next Question. Question No. 46.

Number of AIDS cases reported in the country

*46. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of AIDS reported in the country so far; and

(b) what steps have been taken to check its spread?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): (a) and (b) No positive case of AIDS has been reported in the country so far. However, Government have taken the following preventive measures:—

(i) A surveillence on the disease is being kept in the country.

(ii) State Health Authorities have been alerted to keep in mind signs and symptoms of the disease and report all such suspected cases.

(iii) State Health Education Bureau have been requested to provide health education to Public, particularly to those who are attending the STD clinics, blood banks etc.

(iv) The I.C.M.R. has set up two diagnostic centres—one at Virology Research Institute Pune and another at Christian Medical College, Vellore. Medical Colleges and Hospitals have been instructed to send sera at the above centres for testing if they find any suspected cases of AIDS.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, it is a cheerful news to learn from the honourable Minister that AIDS as such has not raided India though from the newspapers we are given to understand that this newest and the most deadly disease has, in fact, come to our country. But my submission at the moment is that in face of rising international tourist traffic some steps should be taken for its prevention and I would like to know whether any steps have been taken to conduct special blood tests of people, of both Indian origin, and also foreigners coming from endemic areas into our country, particularly from Central Africa, USA and also from Australia and Brazil.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Sir, AIDS is a disease which destroys the immune system and it is caused by a virus which affects the white cells in the blood. The ICMR has set up a task force...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: This is not the question asked. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : I am coming to that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't be impatient.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : The ICMR has set up two laboratories as I have said in my main answer. And at present, so far, 20,000 cases have been reported of AIDS from 74 countries, all over the world, and out of them 17,000 are from the USA. Recently, ICMR, as I said in my answer, has set up a task force to advise the Government to ensure that while importing blood in batches that it is certified that it is free from this virus and brought in the country. There has not been a single authentic case of AIDS reported in India so far. But steps are being taken to step up vigilance in vulnera-